

Wilderness Tourism in the Province of Benguet, Philippines

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Abstract

Wilderness Tourism boomed after uplifting the travel banned all over the provinces of the Philippines. One of the provinces which visited most is the Province of Benguet. Given the situation, the researcher aimed to determine the status of tourism industry in the Province of Benguet. More specifically, to identify the Respondent's Profile and Profile of the Province of Benguet in terms of Municipality, Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic, and in the new normal. Moreover, the impact of tourism in the Province of Benguet in terms of Environmental, Socio-Cultural, and Economic were also identified.

Keywords: Wilderness Tourism, Impact, Environmental, Socio-Cultural, Economic

I. Introduction

Corona Virus Disease 19 (COVID 19) Pandemic caused negative implications to the tourism industry. Particularly when travel restrictions were implemented around the world as advised by the World Health Organization (WHO).

As UNWTO Travel Restrictions Report, 46 destinations or 21% of all destinations worldwide currently have their borders completely closed to tourists. Of these, 26 destinations have had their borders completely closed since at least the end of April 2020. A further 55 or 25% of all global destinations continue to have their borders partially closed to international tourism, and 112 destinations or 52% of all destinations require international tourists to present a PCR or antigen test upon arrival.

Department of Tourism (DOT) in the Philippines data, the demand for domestic tourism soared in 2021 amid the pandemic. Moreover, according to the Philippine Tourism Satellite Accounts (PTSA) report, domestic tourism recorded a surge tallying 37,279,282 trips in 2021, a 38.16% growth compared to the 26,982,233 trips in 2020. The National Capital Region (1,973,851), followed by CALABARZON (1,953,419), and Central Luzon (1,905,758) were the top overnight destinations for local tourists in the year 2021.

Howard Lance Uyking (2022) cited the DOT attributes the resurgence of domestic tourism to the collaborative efforts of the national and local government units to standardize health and safety protocols, reinforced by the active participation of tourism stakeholders from the private sector. This, and the Department's aggressive campaign on domestic tourism carried out with our regional offices, and with the help of local tourism offices across the country, restored Filipinos' confidence to travel.

Literature Review

1. Wilderness Tourism

Wilderness is defined as undeveloped land with minimal human imprints (Nash 2001). The 1964 US Wil-

derness Act defines wilderness as places where one is a momentary tourist through it. Originating in the United States, the concept has spread and gained popularity worldwide. Wilderness areas include conservation preserves, estates, national forests, and parks. These are important for the survival of certain species, conservation, and recreation. Nowadays, wildlands are increasingly being promoted as products for consumption, as illustrated by modern tourism practices and associated place marketing (Saarinen 1998). The commoditization of wilderness has resulted in the mushrooming of tourism facilities, such as game farms, lodges, and hunting in wilderness areas.

Rural destinations have emerged as the most attractive choice after the outbreak of the pandemic. Rural areas were a great alternative in the summer for those tourists wanting to travel whilst still maintaining a social distance (Fuster, 2021).

2. Economic Impact of Tourism

Dorđević & Milićević (2021) indicated that respondents perceive those impacts as more positive. Giving the fact that no research can be found in the scientific literature about how residents perceive the economic benefits and cost of tourism development in spa destinations, this study contributes to this field of study.

3. Environmental Impact of Tourism

Ngan Anh, (2023) revealed that the residents' perception on the environmental impacts of tourism are influenced by age, length of residence and economic dependency. Majority of the residents' demonstrated a positive perception on the environmental impacts of tourism and support the tourism development even though the actual environmental effect is visible at Da Lat City.

Tarmizi, (2023) showed that even though there is not much visible environmental pollution, indications of environmental pollution are already visible, marked by the presence of piles of garbage at several points, styrofoam waste in the waters of the Jangari Reservoir, boat traffic activity in the waters of the Jangari Reservoir, and water hyacinth growing around it. waters to cover the water surface of the reservoir. Waste management in Jangari Reservoir does not carry out 3R (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle), waste management has involved local communities and the government but the implementation has not been maximized because it is not carried out routinely

He et al., (2023) implicated the perceived situation and the impacts of Antarctic tourism on Antarctica, such as disturbing wildlife, increasing global warming, adding pressure caused by the popularity of Antarctic tourism.

Hamad et al., (2022) indicated that sustainable waste management is instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness of environmental protection programs aimed at reducing environmental pollution

4. Socio-Cultural Impact of Tourism

Bello et al., (2022) indicated that local residents perceive specific positive and negative socio-cultural impacts of tourism in their community. Some of the positive socio-cultural impacts of tourism include the provision of jobs; improved personal incomes; stimulation of the local economy and improved security in the destination area. However, the study also revealed two major negative socio-cultural impacts of tourism: the migration of people to the area in search of jobs; and the influence of Western visitors on local culture and "the way of life" of local people due to the demonstration effect.

Eyisi et al., (2021) reported on a study conducted in Southeastern Nigeria, which confirmed that tourism is in the early development stage, and the local people noted that significant adverse impacts are not observable. The paper proposes strategies for addressing potential negative socio-cultural impacts, including being realistic, working together, creating equal opportunities and education/awareness. This

paper provides valuable information for planners and developers on possible ways of developing resident-friendly tourism destination

5. Related Studies

In the study of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural tourism: a case study from Portugal suggested that future research could examine the effect of Covid-19 on distinct rural tourist accommodations and/or other rural tourism businesses in different countries over time, and the factors that influence the choice of destination/accommodation in rural areas by tourists in pandemic times (Silva, 2021). Similarly, the wilderness tourist travels to remote and underdeveloped protected areas in search of personal growth and reflection through experiences of solitude and freedom.

With this, the study aimed to determine the status of tourism industry in the Province of Benguet More specifically, to identify the Respondent's Profile and Profile of the Province of Benguet in terms of Municipality, Tourist Site, Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic, and in the new normal. Moreover, the impact of tourism in the Province of Benguet in terms of Environmental, Socio-Cultural, and Economic were also identified. Finally, based on findings, proposed sustainability plan prepared to conserve and preserve the tourism sites on the subject municipalities in the Province of Benguet.

II. Methodology

The researcher used quantitative research design using descriptive research to gather relevant about the status of tourism industry in the Province of Benguet during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Quantitative research is a way to learn about a particular group of people, known as a sample population. Using scientific inquiry, quantitative research relies on data that are observed or measured to examine questions about the sample population (Allen, 2017). Descriptive research aims to accurately and systematically describe a population, situation or phenomenon. It can answer what, where, when and how questions, but not why questions (McCombes, 2021).

The research instrument of this study was distributed with permission to the Province of Benguet particularly the 13 Municipalities. Tourism Officers, Government Officials, Business Owners, Tourists and the Community are the respondents of this study because they are directly involved in the tourism operations.

Survey Questionnaire with closed ended questions were mainly used as the research instrument to the gather necessary data about the status of tourism industry in the Province of Benguet. The research instrument includes Respondent's Profile and Profile of the Province of Benguet in terms of Municipality, Tourist Site, Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic, and in the new normal. Moreover, the impact of tourism in the Province of Benguet in terms of Environmental, Socio-Cultural, and Economic were also included.

Furthermore, the researcher conducted face validation from three (3) experts in the field of tourism to make sure that the closed questions indicated in the research instrument was anchored on the identified research questions. Likewise, researcher used Cronbach's alpha to test the reliability and internal consistency of the research instrument.

Convenience Sampling was used in choosing the respondents of this study. In this sampling method, it is used for ease data collection since it covered Province with 13 big Municipalities. With this, respondents are accessible and voluntarily respond to the survey questionnaire which make the data collection efficient. The survey questionnaire distributed via face-to-face following safety and precautionary measures of the COVID 19 Pandemic. The data collected were classified, tallied, analyzed, and interpreted using appropriate

iate descriptive statistical tools to answer the research questions.

To answer the Respondents’ Profile and the Profile of the Province of Benguet, The Frequency Counts, Percentage and Ranking were used by the researcher.

While analyzing the impact of tourism in the Province of Benguet in terms of Environmental, Socio-Cultural, and Economic; weighted mean was used by the researcher. The following scales and arbitrary points were used to compute for the respondents’ answers:

Scale	Statistical Limits	Descriptive Equivalent	Symbol
5	4.20- 5.00	Strongly Agree	SA
4	3.40-4.19	Agree	A
3	2.60-3.39	Somewhat Agree	WHA
2	1.80- 2.59	Disagree	D
1	1.00-1.79	Strongly Disagree	SD

III. Results and Discussion

This particular chapter presented the results and discussion of the study about the Wilderness Tourism in the Province of Benguet. Descriptive Statistics were employed to compute for the respondent’s answer.

Table 1. Respondents Profile in terms of Category
N=37

Profile	f	%
Tourism Officer	10	27.03
Elected Government Officials	4	10.81
Business Owners	5	13.51
Tourist	5	13.51
Locale	13	35.14
Total	37	100

Interpreted in Table 1 is the Respondents Profile in terms of Category. It showed that 35.14 % were Locale, 27.03% were Tourism Officer, both Business Owners and Tourist garnered 13.51% while 10.81% were Elected Government Officials. With this, it signifies that majority of the Respondents were Locale.

Table 1.2 Profile of the Respondents in terms of Municipality of their Origin
N=37

Municipality	f	%
Atok	9	24.32
Bakun	1	2.70
Bokod	2	5.41
Buguias	3	8.11
Itogon	2	5.41
Kabayan	1	2.70
Kapangan	3	8.11
Kibungan	1	2.70

La Trinidad	3	8.11
Mankayan	5	13.51
Sablan	1	2.70
Tuba	3	8.11
Tublay	3	8.11
Total	37	100

Projected in Table 1.2 is the Profile of the Respondents in terms of Municipality of their Origin. It showed that there were 24.32% originated from Atok, 13.51% were originated from Mankayan, 8.11% were originated from Buguias, 8.11% were originated from Kapangan, 8.11% were originated from La Trinidad, 8.11% were originated from Tuba, 8.11% were originated from Tublay, 5.41% were originated from Itogon, 5.41% were originated from Bokod, 2.70% was originated from Bakun, 2.70% was originated from Kabayan, and 2.70% was originated from Sablan. This indicates that majority of the Respondents were originated from Atok.

Table 2.1 Profile of the Province of Benguet in terms of Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic
N=37

Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic	f	%
below 1000	22	59.47
10001-2000	13	35.11
20001-3000	0	0
30001-4000	1	2.70
40001-5000	1	2.70
5000 above	0	0
Total	37	100

As discussed in Table 2.1 is the Profile of the Province of Benguet in terms of Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic. It showed that there were 59.47% responded below 1000 of the Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic, 35.11% responded 10001-2000 Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic, 2.70% responded 30001-4000 Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic, 2.70% responded 40001-5000 Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic, while under the category of “20001-3000” and “5000 above” has no response. This indicates that majority responded below 1000 of the Number of tourist arrival per year prior the Pandemic.

Table 2.2 Profile of the Province of Benguet in terms of Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal
N=37

Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal	f	%
below 1000	10	27.03
10001-2000	9	24.32
20001-3000	7	18.92

30001-4000	4	10.81
40001-5000	1	2.70
5000 above	6	16.22
Total	37	100

As shown in Table 2.2 is the Profile of the Province of Benguet in terms of Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal. It showed that there were 37.03% responded below 1000 of the Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal, 24.32% responded 10001-2000 Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal, 18.92% responded 20001-3000 Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal, 16.22 % responded 5000 above Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal, 10.81% responded 30001-4000 Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal, and 2.70% responded 40001-5000 Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal. This indicates that majority responded below 1000 of the Number of tourist arrival per year in the New Normal.

Table 3.1 Positive Economic Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet
N=37

Economic Impact	Weighted Mean	Interpretation	Rank
<i>Rural tourism helps the province to...</i>			
1. contributes to income	4.27	SA	1
2. improve the standard of living	3.57	A	6
3. improve local economy	4.14	A	2
4. increase employment opportunities	3.92	A	4.5
5. increase tax revenues	3.92	A	4.5
6. create new business opportunities	4.08	A	3
Average Weighted Mean:	3.98	A	

Legend:

(4.20 - 5.00) STRONGLY AGREE (SA), (3.40 - 4.19) AGREE (A), (2.60 - 3.39) SOMEWHAT AGREE (SWA), (1.80 - 2.59) DISAGREE (D), (1.00 - 1.79) STRONGLY DISAGREE (SD)

As presented in Table 3.1, is the weighted mean summary of the Positive Economic Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet using five-point Likert scale.

Based on the weighted mean scores the majority of the respondents' responses 'Strongly Agree' that Rural tourism helps the province to contributes to income, it has weighted mean of 4.27 and ranks first among the categories. Second, the respondents' responses 'Agree' that Rural tourism helps the province to improve local economy, it has a weighted mean of 4.14 and ranks second among the categories. Third, the respondents' responses 'Agree' that Rural tourism helps the province to create new business opportunities, it has a weighted mean of 4.08 and ranks third among the categories. Fourth, respondents' responses 'Agree' that Rural tourism helps the province to increase tax revenues and increase tax revenues, both has a weighted mean of 3.92 and both ranks fourth among the categories. Last, the respondents' responses 'Agree' that the Rural tourism helps the province to improve the standard of living, it has a weighted mean of 3.57 and ranks last among the categories.

The average weighted mean of the Positive Economic Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet was 3.98, which is interpreted as “Agree”.

Table 3.2 Positive Environmental Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet
N=37

Environmental Impact	Weighted Mean	Interpretation	Rank
<i>Rural tourism helps the province to...</i>			
1. protect natural environments	3.27	SWA	5
2. prevent ecological decline	3.30	SWA	4
3. preserve the historic buildings	3.78	A	2
4. preserve the monuments	3.65	A	3
5. improve the areas appearance	4.14	A	1
Average Weighted Mean:	3.63	A	

Legend:

(4.20 - 5.00) STRONGLY AGREE (SA), (3.40 - 4.19) AGREE (A), (2.60 - 3.39) SOMEWHAT AGREE (SWA), (1.80 - 2.59) DISAGREE (D), (1.00 - 1.79) STRONGLY DISAGREE (SD)

Interpreted in Table 3.2, is the weighted mean summary of the Positive Environmental Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet using five-point Likert scale.

Based on the weighted mean scores the majority of the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that Rural tourism helps the province to improve the areas appearance, it has weighted mean of 4.14 and ranks first among the categories. Second, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that Rural tourism helps the province to preserve the historic buildings, it has a weighted mean of 3.78 and ranks second among the categories. Third, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that Rural tourism helps the province to preserve the monuments, it has a weighted mean of 3.65 and ranks third among the categories. Fourth, respondents’ responses ‘Somewhat Agree’ that Rural tourism helps the province to prevent ecological decline, it has a weighted mean of 3.30 and ranks fourth among the categories. Last, the respondents’ responses ‘Somewhat Agree’ that the Rural tourism helps the province to protect natural environments, it has a weighted mean of 3.30 and ranks last among the categories.

The average weighted mean of the Positive Environmental Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet was 3.63, which is interpreted as “Agree”.

Table 3.3 Positive Socio-Cultural Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet
N=37

Socio-Cultural Impact	Weighted Mean	Interpretation	Rank
<i>Rural tourism helps the province to...</i>			
1. preserve the cultural heritage sites	4.03	A	4.5
2. restore the cultural heritage sites	3.95	A	7
3. revive the traditional arts	4.11	A	2
4. revive the traditional crafts	4.03	A	4.5

5. cultivate the cultural pride	4.05	A	3
6. cultivate the sense of identity	4.14	A	1
7. practice cross-cultural exchange	4.00	A	6
Average Weighted Mean:	4.04	A	

Legend:

(4.20 - 5.00) *STRONGLY AGREE (SA)*, (3.40 - 4.19) *AGREE (A)*, (2.60 - 3.39) *SOMEWHAT AGREE (SWA)*, (1.80 - 2.59) *DISAGREE (D)*, (1.00 - 1.79) *STRONGLY DISAGREE (SD)*

Demonstrated in Table 3.3, is the weighted mean summary of the Positive Socio-Cultural Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet using five-point Likert scale.

Based on the weighted mean scores the majority of the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that Rural tourism helps the province to cultivate the sense of identity, it has weighted mean of 4.14 and ranks first among the categories. Second, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that Rural tourism helps the province to revive the traditional arts, it has a weighted mean of 4.11 and ranks second among the categories. Third, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that Rural tourism helps the province to cultivate the cultural pride, it has a weighted mean of 4.05 and ranks third among the categories. Fourth, respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that Rural tourism helps the province to preserve the cultural heritage sites and revive the traditional crafts, both has a weighted mean of 4.03 and both ranks fourth among the categories. Last, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the Rural tourism helps the province practice cross-cultural exchange, it has a weighted mean of 4.00 and ranks last among the categories.

The average weighted mean of the Positive Socio-Cultural Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet was 4.04, which is interpreted as “Agree”.

**Table 4.1 Negative Economic Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet
N=37**

Economic Impact	Weighted Mean	Interpretation	Rank
<i>The province encounter...</i>			
1. increase of price of goods	3.95	A	1
2. increase of price of services	3.81	A	4
3. increase price of land	3.84	A	2.5
4. increase prices of housing	3.84	A	2.5
5. increase cost of living	3.68	A	5
6. increase potential for imported labor	3.54	A	6
7. create high-risk employment issues	3.49	A	7
8. create underemployment issues	3.41	A	9
9. create unemployment issues	3.46	A	8
Average Weighted Mean:	3.67	A	

Legend:

(4.20 - 5.00) *STRONGLY AGREE (SA)*, (3.40 - 4.19) *AGREE (A)*, (2.60 - 3.39) *SOMEWHAT AGREE (SWA)*, (1.80 - 2.59) *DISAGREE (D)*, (1.00 - 1.79) *STRONGLY DISAGREE (SD)*

As presented in Table 4.1, is the weighted mean summary of the Negative Economic Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet using five-point Likert scale.

Based on the weighted mean scores the majority of the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered increase of price of goods, it has weighted mean of 3.95 and ranks first among the categories. Second, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered increase price of land and increase prices of housing, both has weighted mean of 3.84 and both ranks second among the categories. Fourth, respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered increase of price of services, it has weighted mean of 3.81 and ranks fourth among the categories. Fifth, respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered increase cost of living, it has weighted mean of 3.68 and ranks fifth among the categories. Sixth, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered increase potential for imported labor, it has weighted mean of 3.54 and ranks sixth among the categories. Seventh, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered create high-risk employment issues, it has weighted mean of 3.49 and ranks seventh among the categories. Eighth, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered create create unemployment issues, it has weighted mean of 3.46 and ranks eighth among the categories. Last, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered create underemployment issues, it has weighted mean of 3.41 and ranks last among the categories.

The average weighted mean of the Negative Economic Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet was 3.67, which is interpreted as “Agree”.

Table 4.2 Negative Environmental Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet
N=37

Environmental Impact	Weighted Mean	Interpretation	Rank
<i>The province encounter ...</i>			
1. air pollution	3.95	A	3.5
2. water pollution	3.86	A	5
3. noise pollution	4.14	A	2
4. solid waste pollution	4.16	A	1
5. visual pollution	3.95	A	3.5
6. loss of natural landscape	3.65	A	9.5
7. loss of agricultural lands to tourism development	3.76	A	7
8. loss of open space	3.81	A	6
9. destruction of flora	3.65	A	9.5
10. destruction of fauna	3.68	A	8
Average Weighted Mean:	3.86	A	

Legend:

(4.20 - 5.00) STRONGLY AGREE (SA), (3.40 - 4.19) AGREE (A), (2.60 - 3.39) SOMEWHAT AGREE (SWA), (1.80 - 2.59) DISAGREE (D), (1.00 - 1.79) STRONGLY DISAGREE (SD)

Interpreted in Table 4.2, is the weighted mean summary of the Negative Environmental Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet using five-point Likert scale.

Based on the weighted mean scores the majority of the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province

encountered solid waste pollution, it has weighted mean of 4.16 and ranks first among the categories. Second, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered noise pollution, it has weighted mean of 4.14 and ranks second among the categories. Third, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered air pollution and visual pollution, both has weighted mean of 3.95 and both ranks third among the categories. Fifth, respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered water pollution, it has weighted mean of 3.86 and ranks fifth among the categories. Sixth, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered loss of open space, it has weighted mean of 3.81 and ranks sixth among the categories. Seventh, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered loss of agricultural lands to tourism development, it has weighted mean of 3.76 and ranks seventh among the categories. Eighth, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered destruction of fauna, it has weighted mean of 3.68 and it ranks eighth among the categories. Last, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered loss of natural landscape and destruction of flora, both has weighted mean of 3.65 and both ranks last among the categories. The average weighted mean of the Negative Environmental Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet was 3.86, which is interpreted as “Agree”.

Table 4.3 Negative Socio-Cultural Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet
N=37

Socio-Cultural Impact	Weighted Mean	Interpretation	Rank
<i>The province encounter ...</i>			
1. language effects	3.62	A	1
2. cultural effects	3.54	A	2
3. unwanted lifestyle changes	3.51	A	3
4. displacement of residents for tourism development	3.49	A	4
5. negative changes in values	3.41	A	5
6. negative changes in customs	3.32	A	6.5
7. exclusions of locals from natural resources	3.32	A	6.5
Average Weighted Mean:	3.46	A	

Legend:

(4.20 - 5.00) STRONGLY AGREE (SA), (3.40 - 4.19) AGREE (A), (2.60 - 3.39) SOMEWHAT AGREE (SWA), (1.80 - 2.59) DISAGREE (D), (1.00 - 1.79) STRONGLY DISAGREE (SD)

Demonstrated in Table 4.3, is the weighted mean summary of the Negative Socio-Cultural Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet using five-point Likert scale.

Based on the weighted mean scores the majority of the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered language effects, it has weighted mean of 3.62 and ranks first among the categories. Second, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered cultural effects, it has weighted mean of 3.54 and ranks second among the categories. Third, the respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered unwanted lifestyle changes, it has weighted mean of 3.51 and ranks third among the categories. Fourth, respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered displacement of residents for tourism development, it has weighted mean of 3.49 and ranks fourth among the categories. Fifth, respondents’ responses ‘Agree’ that the province encountered negative changes in values, it has

weighted mean of 3.41 and ranks fifth among the categories. Last, the respondents' responses 'Agree' that the province encountered negative changes in customs and exclusions of locals from natural resources, both has weighted mean of 3.32 and both ranks last among the categories.

The average weighted mean of the Negative Socio-Cultural Impact of Tourism in the Province of Benguet was 3.46, which is interpreted as "Agree".

IV. Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher concluded that in terms of the Profile of the Respondents, majority were locale from Atok Benguet, Philippines. Moreover, the respondents claimed that the total number of tourist arrival per year before the pandemic and in the year normal were below 1,000. While the Positive and Negative Impact of Tourism in terms of Economic, Environmental and Socio-Cultural were occurred.

V. Recommendations

Based on the conclusion draw, the researcher recommended that all stakeholders such as the Tourism Officer, Elected Government Officials, Business Owners, Tourist, Locale must always observe their best practices as to economic, environmental and socio-cultural in order to maintain their benefits from the tourism industry. Moreover, tourism plan and action must be implemented to eliminate the negative impacts of tourism particularly in terms of economic, environmental and socio-cultural. Finally, the future researchers may conduct similar study to the other regions in the Philippines to explore the impact of tourism.

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